

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66605

DRAFTED BY: IO/TRC:PMILLER

APPROVED BY: IO/LKAHN

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P 051740Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL TORREMOLINOS PRIORITY

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FOR MR. FRIEDLAND MEMBER US DEL

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION USUN INFO GENEVA, IAEA VIENNA, LONDON, MONTREAL
PARIS, ROME FROM SECSTATE OCT 04 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

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NESCO FODAG

MONTREAL FOR U.S. REP ICAO

LONDON FOR SHIPPING ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF, AORG, AFIN

SUBJ: ARABIC AS UN OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGE

REF: USUN 3575

1. PER TELCON WITH SAULS, U.S. DEL SHOULD AGREE WITH
INSCRIPTION OF ITEM ON ARABIC AS UN OFFICIAL AND WORKING
LANGUAGE, IF POSSIBLE MAKING RECORD THAT ARAB MEMBER STATES
HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO PAY FULL COSTS.

2. FYI: WE ARE CONCERNED THAT A NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS
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IN THE UN SYSTEM ARE CONSIDERING THE INCLUSION OF AD-

DITIONAL LANGUAGES TO THEIR LIST OF THOSE RECEIVING INTER-
PRETATION AND TRANSLATION SERVICES. WE ARE GENERALLY
OPPOSED TO MEASURES THAT WOULD RAISE THE ADMINISTRATIVE
COSTS IN THE UN SYSTEM AND ARE PARTICULARLY OPPOSED TO
THE PROLIFERATION OF LANGUAGES, WHICH, IN ADDITION TO
MAKING MEETINGS MORE CUMBERSOME AND REFLECTING ADVERSELY
ON THE RATIONAL OPERATION OF THE ORGANIZATIONS, RAISES THE
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF LANGUAGE SERVICES BY A GEOMETRIC
PROGRESSION. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE ARE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE
ADDITION OF LANGUAGES WHERE THE USERS ARE WILLING TO BEAR
THE COSTS. END FYI.

3. THE PROPOSAL BY ARAB MEMBER STATES THAT THEY PAY THE
COSTS OF ARABIC LANGUAGE SERVICE IN THE UN OFFERS AN
EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE UN TO CONSIDER PUTTING ALL
LANGUAGES ON A PAY-AS-YOU-GO SYSTEM, WHICH WOULD HAVE
DESIRABLE SYSTEM-WIDE IMPLICATIONS. IN SUCH A SYSTEM,
ALL DELEGATIONS MIGHT BE ASSESSED FOR THE COSTS OF THE
LANGUAGE SERVICES THEY CHOOSE TO UTILIZE, INCLUDING
ENGLISH, AND ANY LANGUAGE NOT NOW AN OFFICIAL OR WORKING
LANGUAGE COULD BE INTRODUCED. THIS METHOD WOULD ALLOW
MEMBERS THE PRESTIGE OF USING THEIR NATIONAL LANGUAGE IF
THEY PAY THE BILL FOR IT AND WOULD ALSO ALLOW SOME SAVINGS
TO THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO SHARE THE COSTS OF THE MORE WIDELY
USED LANGUAGES. ACCORDINGLY, U.S. DEL SHOULD UTILIZE
ARAB INITIATIVE TO DEVELOP CAREFUL CONSIDERATION THIS
PROPOSAL (FOR WHICH ARAB STATES MAY BE GIVEN FULL CREDIT
IF THIS IS USEFUL) IN FIFTH COMMITTEE WITH A VIEW
TOWARD ITS ADOPTION. U.S. DEL WILL REALIZE THAT ALTERNA-
TIVE TO SOME SUCH APPROACH IS INCREASING MELANGE OF
WORKING LANGUAGES THROUGHOUT UN SYSTEM AT COSTS THAT IM-
PERIL LEGITIMATE PROGRAMS OF UN SYSTEM AGENCIES. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE197420
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/TRC:PMILLER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731047/aaaabimn.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 3575
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARABIC AS UN OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGE
TAGS: PFOR, AORG, AFIN, XF, UN
To: TORREMOLINOS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005